

The Death of Abraham and Birth of Jacob and Esau

Genesis 25:1-34

- I. THE SUNSET OF ABRAHAM (Genesis 25:1-11)
 - A. The Close of a Life
 1. This chapter wraps up the life of Abraham and Ishmael and begins the section of Genesis devoted to Isaac. As such, it is sort of a pivotal chapter in the book of Genesis.
 2. The emphasis has been on Abraham and those surrounding his life, but now the focus will turn for a short time to Isaac and his life, however, for not very long. We will soon be turned toward the life of Jacob (Israel) and the remainder of Genesis will focus on his and the life of his sons.
 - B. The Opening of Another
 1. While the book of Genesis does not focus on Isaac as long as his father and his son it is still a significant and gives important facts in the Biblical record.
 2. Twice in this chapter we will read “*the generations of*” (Genesis 25:12, 19).
 - C. The Supplements to His Family (Genesis 25:1-4)
 1. The addition of a spouse (Genesis 25:1)
 - a. Not much is known about Keturah other than a few mentions of her in the Bible. Even there it is relegated to facts and not about her herself.
 - b. The Bible places her as a concubine according to 1 Chronicles chapter 1 (1 Chronicles 1:32).
 - c. She is the mother of six sons by Abraham. (Genesis 25:2).
 2. The addition of children (Genesis 25:2-4)
 - a. The sons of Abraham, by Keturah (Genesis 25:2)
 - (1) Zimram
 - (2) Jokshan
 - (3) Medan
 - (4) Midian
 - (5) Ishbak
 - (6) Shuah

- b. The boys and their offspring (Genesis 25:3-4)
 - (1) It is interesting to note that in the Genesis account only Jokshan's and Midian's offspring are named. This is reiterated in 1 Chronicles chapter 1 (1 Chronicles 1:32-33).
 - (2) Jokshan and his offspring (Genesis 25:3)
 - (a) Sheba
 - (b) Dedan
 - i. The sons of Dedan,
 - ii. Asshurim, and Letushim, and Leummim.
 - (3) Midian and his offspring (Genesis 25:4)
 - (a) Ephah
 - (b) Epher
 - (c) Hanoch
 - (d) Abida
 - (e) Eldaah
 - (4) The troubling by Midian (Genesis 25:2, 4)
 - (a) The most notorious of these sons Midian's offspring would go on to trouble Israel.
 - i. When they came back up out of Egypt, on their way to the land of promise (Numbers 22:4-7; Numbers 25:6; Numbers 31:2).
 - ii. Later they would be a thorn in the side of Israel during the time of the judges (Judges 6:1-6).
 - (b) Other appearances of the Midianites
 - i. They were present at the buying and selling of Joseph (Genesis 37:28).
 - ii. Moses' father-in-law was a priest of Midian (Exodus 2:15-16).

D. The Specifics of His Will (Genesis 25:5-6)

- 1. The preference of his will (Genesis 25:5)
 - a. Abraham gave everything that he had to Isaac.
 - b. God had told him that "*My covenant will I establish with Isaac*" in Genesis chapter 17 (Genesis 17:21).
 - c. This made Isaac the sole beneficiary of Abraham.
- 2. The presents of his will (Genesis 25:6)
 - a. However, Abraham gave presents to the sons of the concubines.
 - b. Abraham was a benevolent father and gave gifts to his other sons.

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- c. But he sent them away from his son Isaac, for Canaan was given to Isaac to inherit.
 3. The punctuality of his will (Genesis 25:6)
 - a. Abraham took care of the disbursement of his estate while he was yet alive.
 - b. This was wise on his part as leaving the decision making to his sons could and likely would have meant disaster.
 - c. This is a great example to all parents to make sure that things are handled for the future. This will benefit the children in the end.
 - d. All Christians should be good stewards of that which the Lord has given them.
 - E. The Statements Concerning His Death (Genesis 25:7-10)
 1. The life span of Abraham (Genesis 25:7-8)
 - a. 175 years old.
 - b. Dying at 175 years old meant that Isaac was 75 when Abraham died, and that Esau and Jacob would have been 15 years old at their grandfather's death.
 - c. The longevity of the lives of the patriarchs meant that truths from God could be passed down from generation to generation. Many of the Old Testament patriarchs' lives overlapped each other. This would allow the teaching necessary for the next generations.
 2. The location of Abraham's burial (Genesis 25:9-10)
 - a. The giving up the ghost (Genesis 25:8).
 - (1) This would be the departing of his soul and/or spirit.
 - (2) Note other places where we see this happen
 - (a) Ishmael (Genesis 25:17)
 - (b) Rachel (her soul) (Genesis 35:18)
 - (c) Jacob (Genesis 49:33)
 - (d) Jesus Christ (his spirit) (Luke 23:46)
 - (e) Ananias (Acts 5:5)
 - (f) Herod (Acts 12:23)
 - b. The resting place of his soul (Genesis 25:8)
 - (1) In Paradise (or Abraham's bosom) (Luke 16:22)
 - (a) Samuel tells Saul that he and his sons would be with him (1 Samuel 28:19).
 - (b) The rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31).
 - (c) Christ mentions paradise to the thief on the cross (Luke 23:43).
 - (d) No longer located next to hell (2 Corinthians 12:4; Revelation 2:7).

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- (2) With his people (unto his people / unto his fathers)
 - (a) This was an indication of an Old Testament saint going to Paradise.
 - (b) An indication that the individual did not go to hell.
 - (c) Not to be confused with being buried with family or other patriarchs.
 - i. Aaron was buried alone in the wilderness (Numbers 20:24).
 - ii. Moses was gathered unto his people, just like Aaron (Numbers 27:13; Numbers 31:2).
 - c. In the cave of Machpelah (Genesis 25:9-10)
 - d. The burial by his sons (Genesis 25:9-10)
 - (1) Isaac
 - (2) Ishmael

F. The Status of Isaac After His Father's Death (Genesis 25:11)

II. THE SUMMARY OF ISHMAEL (Genesis 25:12-18)

A. The Description of Ishmael (Genesis 25:12)

- 1. The description of Ishmael indicates that the Lord did not count him as the promised son.
- 2. Described as the son of the handmaid of Sarah (Genesis 25:12).
 - a. *“Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's handmaid”*
 - b. That his mother was the handmaid of Sarah

B. The Descendants of Ishmael (Genesis 25:13-16)

- 1. Only the twelve sons of Ishmael are listed.
- 2. His grandsons are not listed.
- 3. The sons of Ishmael (Genesis 25:13-16; 1 Chronicles 1:29-31).
 - a. Nebajoth, Kedar, Adbeel, and Mibsam,
 - b. Mishma, Dumah, Massa, and Hadar,
 - c. Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah.

C. The Death of Ishmael (Genesis 25:17)

- 1. One hundred and thirty-seven years old.
- 2. He gave up the ghost and was gathered unto his people.

D. The Location Ishmael's death and the Sons' Dwelling (Genesis 25:18)